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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AUG 10 2001

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/767,834

Filed: January 24, 2001

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & §1.98

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 29, 2001

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a copy of a reference to be considered by the Examiner during prosecution of the above-identified application. Also enclosed is an English abstract of this document. Further enclosed is Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing this enclosed document.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, the requirements of 37 CFR §1.97(b) are clearly satisfied.

The enclosed document is not in English; however, requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by the enclosed English abstract. At the very least, the English abstract should be considered during examination of the above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the presently

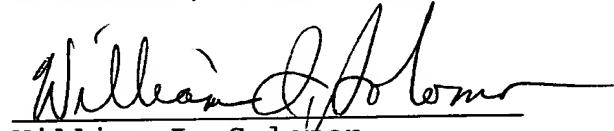
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submitted document. Accordingly, consideration of the listed document, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C27) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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